

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS – PLYMOUTH DISTRICT  
OFFICE OF THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY



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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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**PLYMOUTH COUNTY DA CRUZ ANNOUNCES MULTI-AGENCY  
RESPONSE TO TARGET GUN, DRUG AND VIOLENT CRIME IN THE  
CITY OF BROCKTON AND SURROUNDING AREAS**

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**BROCKTON** – Plymouth County District Attorney Timothy J. Cruz has announced formation of a law enforcement task force comprised of state, federal and law enforcement agencies to target gun, drug and violent crime in the City of Brockton and surrounding communities.

Today, DA Cruz held the first meeting of the working group under “Operation Safe Streets.” The group is comprised of representatives from the following: State Police assigned to the District Attorney’s Office, State Police Gang Unit, State Police Violent Fugitive Apprehension Section, State Police Community Action Team, Brockton Police, the US Attorney’s Office, Homeland Security, the Federal Bureau of Investigations, the Drug Enforcement Administration and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives.

“We are witnessing a particularly dangerous time in the City of Brockton and surrounding communities,” DA Cruz said. “In April, a teen was fatally stabbed at a playground. Last weekend, a woman was shot and a man stabbed, and residents are reporting hearing gunshots at all hours. As law enforcement, we need to come together to maximize our efforts on all levels and remind criminals who come here to commit crime that Brockton is an unwelcome destination.”

After today’s initial gathering, members of the task force will meet again in the coming weeks and are set to begin meeting regularly to collect data, share information and gather intelligence on problem areas and individuals within Brockton and the surrounding communities. The District Attorney’s Office will continue their efforts prosecuting gun and drug cases and will continue to refer the areas worst criminals for federal prosecution.

Operation Safe Streets is modeled after Project Safe Neighborhoods (PSN), a national initiative started in 2001 by the U.S. Department of Justice to reduce gun violence in the United

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States. Under the program, PSN funds were used to assist local law enforcement in implementing programs to fight crime and help improve data sharing and community training. It was an extremely effective method but unfortunately, federal grant funding ran out.

As part of today's Operation Safe Streets, community meetings that once occurred during the PSN initiative will be reconvened to allow for open channels of communication between law enforcement and area residents to discuss ongoing concerns within the community.

"I witnessed first-hand the difference PSN made in our neighborhoods during some of the deadliest times in our city," DA Cruz said. "I am hopeful that Operation Safe Streets will mobilize law enforcement to reinvigorate these criminal justice philosophies and return some sense of security to the residents of Brockton and surrounding areas."

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